

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An echo cancellation system (11), comprising:

a microphone (18), responsive to an echo signal (22) from a loudspeaker (16) that provides an acoustic output signal in response to a voice signal (20), for providing an echo signal which is a component of a microphone signal (28); and

a statistical adaptive-filter controller (40), responsive to the voice signal (20) and to an echo reduced microphone signal (34), for providing a first control signal (42) to an echo canceller module (21) and a second control signal (44) to a postfilter (14), wherein said postfilter provides filtering in a frequency domain and [;] said first and said second control signals are determined jointly by said statistical adaptive-filter controller using an optimized common algorithm and provided for optimizing cancellation of the echo signal.

2. (Currently Amended) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 1, wherein the first control signal (42) is a step-size signal which is used to determine a gradient change of an echo transfer function signal (15) provided to an echo canceller (10) of the echo canceller module (21) according to a predetermined ~~criteria~~ criterion.

3. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 1, wherein the second control signal (44) is a further transfer function signal of the postfilter (14), said further transfer function signal weights an echo reduced microphone signal (34).

The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 1, further comprising the postfilter (14), responsive to an echo reduced microphone signal (34) and to the second control signal (44), for providing an output system signal (36).

5. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 1, further comprising the echo canceller module (21), responsive to the voice signal (20), to the first control signal (42), and to an echo reduced microphone signal (34), for providing an estimated echo signal (32) to an adder (30).

6. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 5, wherein the echo canceller module (21) comprises an echo canceller (10) responsive to the voice signal (20) and to an echo transfer function signal (15), for providing an estimated echo signal (32) to the adder (30).

7. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 5, wherein the echo canceller module (21) comprises a gradient adaptation means (12), responsive to the voice signal (20), to the first control signal (42), for providing for an echo transfer function signal (15) to the echo canceller (10).

8. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 5, further comprising the postfilter (14), responsive to an echo reduced microphone signal (34) and to the second control signal (44), for providing an output system signal (36).

9. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 1, further comprising an adder (18), responsive to a microphone

signal (28) and to an estimate echo signal (32), for providing an echo reduced microphone signal (34).

10. (Cancelled) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 1, wherein the statistical adaptive-filter controller (40), the echo canceller module (21) and the postfilter (14) operate in a time domain, and said first and second control signals are provided in the time domain as well.

11. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 1, wherein the statistical adaptive-filter controller (40), the echo canceller module (21) and the postfilter (14) operate in a frequency domain, and said first and second control signals are provided in the frequency domain as well.

12. (Currently Amended) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 1, wherein the statistical adaptive-filter controller (40) and the echo canceller module (21) operates in a time domain and the postfilter (14) operates in a frequency domain, and the first control signal is provided in the time domain and the second control signal is provided in the frequency domain, respectively.

13. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 11, wherein the frequency domain is implemented as a Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) domain.

14. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 13, wherein the statistical adaptive-filter controller (40) is further comprising:

a first power spectral density means (40b), responsive to the voice signal (20), providing for a first power spectral density signal (46) of the voice signal (20);

a second power spectral density means (40c), responsive to an echo reduced microphone signal (34), providing for a second power spectral density signal (48) of the echo reduced microphone signal (34); and a statistical adaptive-filter estimator (40a), responsive to the first and to the second power spectral density signals (46, 48), providing for the first and for the second control signals (42, 44).

15. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 14, wherein the first control signal (42) is a step-size signal which is used according to a predetermined criteria to determine a gradient change of an echo transfer function signal (15) provided to an echo canceller (10) of the echo canceller module (21), said step-size signal is determined according to:

$$\mu(k) = \frac{|G'|^2 \Phi_{xx}(k)}{\Phi_{ee}(k)},$$

wherein $|G'|^2$ is a predetermined constant and $\Phi_{xx}(k)$ and $\Phi_{ee}(k)$ denote the first and second power spectral densities signals (46, 48), respectively, and k is a frame time index.

16. (Original) The echo cancellation system (11) of claim 15, wherein the second control signal (44) is a further transfer function signal of a postfilter (14), said further transfer function signal weights an echo reduced microphone signal (34) and it is determined according to:

$$H(k) = \frac{\Phi_{ee}(k) - |G(k)|^2 \Phi_{xx}(k)}{\Phi_{ee}(k)},$$

wherein $|G(k)|^2$ is determined by solution of a difference equation:

$$|G(k+1)|^2 = |G(k)|^2 (1 - 2\mu(k)) + \mu(k) |G'|^2.$$

17. (Currently amended) A method for acoustic echo control, comprising the steps of:

providing (100) an echo signal which is a component of a microphone signal (28) of a microphone (18) which is responsive to an echo signal (22) from a loudspeaker (16) that provides an acoustic output signal in response to a voice signal (20); and

providing (108) a first control signal (42) to an echo canceller module (21) and a second control signal (44) to a postfilter (14) by a statistical adaptive-filter controller (40) which is responsive to the voice signal (20) and to an echo reduced microphone signal (34) for optimizing echo cancellation of the echo signal, wherein said postfilter provides filtering in a frequency domain and said first and said second control signals are determined jointly by said statistical adaptive-filter controller using an optimized common algorithm.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the first control signal (42) is a step-size signal which is used to determine a gradient change of an echo transfer function signal (15) provided to an echo canceller (10) of the echo canceller module (21) according to a predetermined ~~criteria~~ criterion.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the second control signal (44) is a further transfer function signal of a postfilter (14), said further transfer function signal weights an echo reduced microphone signal (34).

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, prior to the step of providing (108) the first and second control signals (42, 44), further comprising the step of:

determining (104, 106) the first and the second control signals by a statistical adaptive-filter controller (40).

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

determining (112) an estimated echo signal (32) by the echo canceller module (21) using the first control signal provided by the statistical adaptive-filter controller (40); and

determining (114) an echo reduced microphone signal (34) by an adder (28) by adding the estimate echo signal (32) to a microphone signal (18).

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

determining (116) an output system signal (36) by the postfilter (14) using the second control signal provided by the statistical adaptive-filter controller (40).